

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-19, 21-24, 26-34 are now pending in the application. The allowance of Claims 19, 21-24 and 26-34 is acknowledged. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the claim amendments presented above and the remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 14, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Bowen '608 patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,464,608). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Pursuant to the telephonic interview conducted September 13, 2005 between Examiner Ho and the Applicant's undersigned counsel, amendments to Claims 1, 7 and 14 were discussed to clarify the distinction between the teachings of the Bowen '608 patent and Applicant's claimed subject matter. Specifically, the Bowen '608 patent discloses a transfer case (see FIG. 2) having an electric motor (22) driving a planetary gearset (58) so as to deliver drive torque to both rear output shaft (50) and front output shaft (40). In contrast, Applicant's claimed subject matter defines use of a transfer case wherein the motor is arranged to only drive the front output shaft. As such, the rear output shaft is not driven by the electric motor.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the § 102(e) rejection and to indicate allowance of all pending claims over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this Response is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1240. Finally, the undersigned extends his sincere thanks to the Examiner for the courtesies extended during our recent interview discussions.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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